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NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

Fact Sheet
30

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What is the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards?

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization governed by a 63-member Board of Directors comprised primarily of classroom teachers. Its purpose is to improve student learning in America's schools by developing a system of advanced, voluntary certification for elementary, middle, and high school teachers. The National Board has established rigorous standards and assessments for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

What is National Board Certification?

National Board Certification is acknowledgment that a teacher is highly accomplished, having met challenging professional teaching standards as evidenced by performance-based assessments. At the present time, there are more than 82,000 teachers nationwide who have achieved National Board Certification. National Board Certification complements, but does not replace, State certification. National Board Certification is valid for 10 years.

Who is eligible?

For initial certification, a Maryland candidate must hold a baccalaureate degree, have taught successfully for a minimum of three years, and have held a valid professional state teaching certificate for those three years, or, where a certificate is not required, taught in schools recognized and approved to operate by the State. Renewal candidates must hold a valid National Board Certification, have a Maryland teaching certificate which is unencumbered, and be in their eighth or ninth year as a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). All candidates, initial or renewal, must be identified by the local public school system in which they are employed.

What are the National Board Certification areas?

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards currently offers 25 certificates in a variety of areas. A list is available at http://www.nbpts.org/become_a_candidate/available_certificates1.

What does National Certification Cost?

The current assessment fee for initial certification is \$2500; the current assessment fee for renewal is \$1150. Candidates may also retake portions of the initial assessment at a cost of \$350 per retake. A complete list of fees is available at http://www.nbpts.org/become_a_candidate/fees_financial_support.

(continued on back of page)

What is the assessment process for National Board Certification?

The initial assessment process is two-tiered and consists of compiling a student-centered portfolio and completing assessment center exercises. Candidates submit four portfolio entries. Three of the entries are classroom-based and include two videos that document the candidate's teaching practice through student work. The fourth entry documents the candidate's work with students' families and community and collaboration with the professional community. Analytical and reflective commentary accompanies all documentation.

The Assessment Center consists of six 30-minute prompts that require candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of subject matter content.

The renewal process requires the NBCT to complete a Profile of Professional Growth (PPG). The PPG is composed of three interrelated components and a reflection. Information regarding the PPG is available at http://www.nbpts.org/for_nbcts/certification_renewal.

What is Maryland doing to help teachers with National Board Certification?

In 1999, the Maryland General Assembly established a permanent program of state and local aid to pay the assessment fee for public school teachers seeking National Board Certification. The State pays two-thirds of the assessment fee and the local school system pays the remaining one-third. Subsequent legislation enacted in 2008 increased the number of candidates from 500 to 1000. This legislation also provided, funding permitting, that the State pay for up to one retake and two-thirds of the renewal fee for qualified candidates.

Local school systems offer Candidate Support Networks to assist candidates through the certification process. School systems may offer additional stipends to NBCTs and the State provides a match up to \$2000.